

King County Mobility Coalition

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015, 9:30 to 11:30 AM
Shoreline City Hall, Council Chambers
17500 Midvale Ave N, Shoreline, WA 98133

In attendance

Members/Alternates: Gaby Bell, Alaric Bien, Amy Biggs, Dorene Cornwell, Cecile Henault, Melony Joyce, Francois Larrivee, Ref Lindmark (co-chair), Aaron Morrow, Scott Ninneman, Alex O'Reilly (co-chair), Eileen Rasnack, Jacob Struiksmma, Suni Tolton, David Waggoner, Ryan Warner

Collaborators: Victoria Alie, Rob Beem, Ethan Bergerson, Cameron Duncan, Chris Eggen, Jate Ekmahasawasdi, Jeremy Fichter, Ann Gifford, Eric Knigge, Edith Savadove, Nytasha Sowers

Staff: Jon Morrison Winters

Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

Alex O'Reilly opened the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

New Introductions:

- Jate Ekmahasawasdi is from Senior Housing Assistance Group (SHAG).
- Ann Gifford is the new Mobility Manager for SNOTRAC.
- Nytasha Sowers and Victoria Alie are with the City of Shoreline.
- Ethan Bergerson and Eric Knigge are with Washington State Department of Transportation.
- Jeremy Fichter is a planner at King County Metro.
- Chris Eggen is Deputy Mayor of the City of Shoreline.
- Jacob Struiksmma is a member of King County Metro's Transit Advisory Commission.

Announcements:

- Jate announced SHAG's Spokes 4 Folks event that was to be held on May 30.
- Dorene Cornwell announced that she will be serving on Metro's Service Guidelines Taskforce.

Briefing: City of Shoreline Transportation Projects

Ref Lindmark, Coalition Co-chair, introduced Nytasha Sowers. Nytasha is Transportation Planning Manager at the City of Shoreline. She shared a presentation on the City's work, in partnership with Sound Transit, to prepare for future light rail service in the City. She spoke about the different roles of various agencies, and presented on the details of future stations on 145th St and 185th St.

Nytasha noted that a rezone around 185th St had gone forward, but a rezone around 145th St was postponed while the City conducts a corridor study. She spoke about the pedestrian safety issues in the corridor and stated that the City's goal is to complete improvements to 145th St in time for Light Rail service.

There are Citizen Advisory Taskforces and Technical Advisory Taskforces that have been established to advise the work being done in preparation for light rail.

Chris Eggen provided additional context on the planning process and the station-area rezones. Alaric Bien asked about the impact to neighborhoods and what mitigation was being done. Nytasha responded that Sound Transit is pursuing various mitigation measures, such as providing insulation on homes for noise mitigation. David Waggoner asked about the staging of the 145th St project and when the project might be shovel-ready. The 145th St corridor project may be shovel-ready in three to four years.

The Coalition thanked Nytasha for her presentation and for answering questions.

Consent Calendar

February, 2015 Meeting Minutes: The Coalition approved the meeting minutes as drafted.

New Members and Alternates: the Coalition confirmed the appointment of the following members and alternates:

- Jessica Renner to fill a vacancy as a system user representative and liaison to the Transit Advisory Commission.
- Jacob Struiksma to fill a vacancy as a system user alternate and liaison to the Transit Advisory Commission.

Briefing: I-405 Express Tolling

Alex introduced Ethan Bergerson and Eric Knigge of Washington State Department of Transportation. Ethan and Eric presented on the new I-405 Express Toll Lanes, which will be put into service between Lynnwood and Bellevue this fall. The goal of the Express Toll Lanes is to reduce congestion. 405 is being expanded to add an additional HOV lane, and both HOV lanes will become express toll lanes.

The express toll lanes will let drivers choose to travel faster by paying a toll to access the HOV lanes. Toll rates will adjust depending on real-time traffic conditions and drivers will pay the rate they see upon entering the lanes. Tolls can be paid with the current *Good to Go!* pass or by mail at a higher rate.

WSDOT is also introducing a new Flex Pass which will allow carpools to use the express toll lanes for free. Carpool drivers will need to set their Flex Pass to HOV mode to use the lanes for free. Additionally, during the peak commuting time period, HOVs will require three or more occupants in order to qualify for free use of the lanes. In the off-peak, HOVs of two or more occupants will qualify.

Jeremy Fichter asked whether there will be a pass for transit. In fact, transit vehicles are already equipped with *Good to Go!* passes. The biggest change will be for carpoolers, who will need the new Flex Pass in order to use the HOV lanes for free.

A Coalition member asked for clarification about how the lanes will work for Taxis and Ride-shares. Private operators will be responsible for complying with the new system, including use of the Flex Pass.

Dorene asked about using the Flex Pass or *Good to Go!* Pass to pay volunteer drivers by bringing a pass onboard. The passes are not able to be shared, as the pass is matched to a vehicle.

There was additional discussion about the Flex Pass, including concerns about distracting drivers and request for clarification that in order to use the Express Toll Lanes for free as an HOV, you do have to use the Flex Pass set to HOV mode, which is the case.

The Coalition thanked Ethan and Eric for their presentation.

Briefing: King County Metro Long Range Plan; Link Connections

Ref introduced Melony Joyce and Jeremy Fichter of King County Metro. Melony, who is the Metro representative on the Coalition, has been serving on an internal Metro Staff Committee that has been working on Metro's Long Range Plan. Jeremy is one of the service planners working on the Link Connections project.

Melony used a PowerPoint presentation to share information about Metro's Long Range Plan with the Coalition. This Plan will guide Metro's Service Network as our region grows over the next 25 years. Additionally, this planning is being done in conjunction with Sound Transit's efforts to plan for a possible Fall, 2016 ballot measure, "ST3," to extend the Regional Light Rail System beyond what is currently funded.

The Long Range Plan will establish a vision for a future integrated service network. Integrated planning is already happening with projects such as the Link Connections project. Jeremy spoke about this project, which involves restructuring bus service around the new Capital Hill and University of Washington Light Rail Stations, which will be opening in early 2016. Jeremy explained the process that Metro has gone through to plan this restructure, including public outreach. The current proposal, which includes elements of two earlier proposals, is available for review on Metro's website. The King County Council and Sound Transit Board will vote on the service changes later this summer.

In further discussion of the Long Range Plan, Melony noted that people with disabilities were not listed among the demographic groups called out in the Powerpoint presentation that was provided to her by the Long Range Planning Team, which was an oversight that she is working to rectify.

Aaron Morrow stated that additional planning and improvements are needed for Metro Access service.

Ref further explained the context of these two planning processes – the Long Range Plan is a very high-level process, whereas the Link Connections project is at a more localized level.

Jeremy shared handouts showing the proposal for the future bus network after University Link opens next year, including the extensive changes affecting Northeast Seattle. He also noted that there are videos on Metro's website that help explain the changes.

Jacob Struiksma noted the challenges of the street network. Additional improvements are needed to the street network, such as additional bus lanes, to ensure the reliability and efficiency of the system. Jeremy responded that Metro has been working with the City to improve the efficiency of the system.

The Coalition thanked Melony and Jeremy for their presentations.

Update and Discussion: KCMC 5-Year Action Plan

Alex introduced the topic of the Coalition's Action Plan, which is currently being developed. Jon Morrison Winters spoke about the process to date. Specifically, a group of volunteers who have been serving as an Action Planning Workgroup have been paired off into "dyads," or groups of two in order to brainstorm around specific initiatives. Many of the dyads have already met, but the Action Plan is still in an early draft form. Jon pointed out that this early draft is provided as a hand-out, in case any Coalition members have questions or concerns at this point. Guided by previous discussions, the availability of grant resources, and the 2014 King County Transportation Needs Assessment, the Action Plan contains seven initiatives: Access to Healthcare, Veterans Transportation, Emergency Management Coordination, Education and Outreach, Suburban and Rural Access, Livable Communities, and Access to Work and School. Each initiative has three to four strategies. Jon encouraged everyone to look at the draft and ask any questions.

Ref added an additional explanation of how we have gotten to this point with these specific initiatives being in the plan. There are a web of services and ongoing efforts, and we have collected some of the best practices and built on existing webs of partnerships and services.

Several Workgroup members discussed individual initiatives and strategies in the plan. Alex noted that the strategies listed under Access to Healthcare are a collection of efforts that are currently ongoing. For example, an AARP publication recently touted the potential for new transportation services through the Affordable Care Act. Amy Biggs spoke about the Suburban and Rural Access Initiative.

Coalition members asked questions and provided comments on the Action Plan. Melony mentioned Metro's CAT program and encouraged coordination with this program. Dorene spoke to data and information challenges. Gaby Bell asked about addressing barriers that customers face with existing services.

Jon thanked everyone for their comments and suggestions and mentioned that the next steps will be to continue working with the Workgroup, as well as Coalition subcommittees, to ensure that all of our work is included in the Action Plan and that the Plan will serve to guide our work over the next five years.

Coordinated Grant Process Debrief

Ref provided an update on the Special Needs Transportation Coordinated Grant Process which has recently concluded. Among the information he provided was an explanation of the coordination between PSRC and WSDOT, as well as the history of increased need and additional

competition for grant funds. The result of this biennial funding cycle was that every project that applied for funding did receive some funding, except for one project submitted by King County Metro. Senior Services Hyde Shuttle project did not receive full funding. This project is the first project on the contingency list slated to receive returned funds or any additional contingency funding that becomes available.

Aaron asked whether this funding is FTA Section 5310 funding. Ref clarified that it is.

Chris Eggen noted that local leaders, including Seattle City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, would like to renew the commitment to special needs mobility. Coalition members who are able to advocate for increased funding may find a receptive ear.

Ref concluded by noting that the PSRC Special Needs Transportation Committee is already looking ahead to the next grant round two years from now, and considering ways that this process could improve.

Additional Updates

Cameron Duncan provided an update on the subregional coalitions, and agreed to send out the North King County Listening Sessions Report. Francois noted that this approach was very successful in engaging seniors and people with disabilities in North King County and we are looking to replicate this approach in other parts of the County in order to improve transportation services.

Ref provided an update on ORCA LIFT implementation. Metro's "LIFT-to-Go" teams are gearing up for additional outreach at summer festivals. There is an ORCA-to-Go schedule on Metro's website.

Dorene noted that July 26 is the 25th Anniversary of the ADA. She will share information on an Anniversary celebration that is scheduled for this July.

David Waggoner commented on the value of ORCA-to-Go. David is working to get LIFT-to-Go in Issaquah. David also asked Coalition members to remember the sacrifices made by those who have served in the armed forces this Memorial Day.

Next Steps

- Next Meeting: **Tuesday, August 18, 2015** from 9:30 – 11:30 AM at **Bellevue City Hall**, 450 110th Ave NE, Room 1E-108.
- Action Planning Workgroup to meet prior to the next Coalition meeting.

Agendas, minutes and handouts from past Coalition meeting are available online at:
<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/kccsnt/agendas-minutes.html>